New College,
Oxford.

May. 1. 1874.

The autograph letter of William of Wykeham, now in the possession of New College, was purchased at a sale by Messrs Puttick & Simpson in London, Feb. 7. 1863 for £29-10-0

It was previously in the Collection of Sir Edward Dering.

The letter is addressed to John, Lord Cobeham, who was sent on a special mission to the Court of Rome by King Edward the Third in 1367; and the date of the letter is thus determined to that year, and, probably, to the month of June: letters of safe-conduct having been issued to Lord Cobham in that month.

The letter no doubt relates to the ransom of the Duke of Bourbon, and the interest to be made by the Duke with the Pope (Urban V.) for the appointment of

DSI

William of Wykeham to the Bishopric of Winchester, as related by Froissart.

The name of the person called "Caval" in this letter and described as the "Vallet" of Symond Bochel appears in a document (printed in Rymer - Vol. VI. p. 581) dated 6th of Decr. 1367, in which an acquittance is made by the king to the Duke of Bourbon of a sum of 10,000 crowns received through the hands of "Kavall Paff, Attourne Simond Bochel, Marchantz de Luk", in part payment of the sum of 40,000 crowns.

The fac-simile of the letter, with remarks upon it by the Rev. L. B. Larking - and by Charles Wykeham Martin Esqr. of Leeds Castle, Kent, appeared in the first volume of the Transactions of the Kent Archæological Society (Archæologia Cantiana), 1858.

The letter itself is as follows:
(without abbreviations)

"Tres cher sire - Veulliez savoir q ycel
dymenge je envoiay pour Caval le vallet
Symond Bockel q vynt a moi a
Shene ou je lui parlay de leschange
dont vous savez Et ycel lundy il envoit
un vallet devers Parys et lui ad charge
q il y soit ove toute la haste q il purra
par la dite cause - Et le dit Symond
ou Barthsloneu Spifanie son piere
envoieront devers leur compaignons quel
part q le pape serra de vous faire
prestement paier la somme dont etait
parle entre nous. Ipsuit - q il non busoigne
mie q vous aillez ne envoiez devers
Parys par celle cause - Car seurement -
vous troverez le dit paiement devant -
vous en les mains de dits compaignons
quel lieu q le pape serra trove.

Tres cher sire - lui Seint Espirit
vous veulle garder en sanitee

Escrit a Shene en grande haste ycel
lundy - sur mon departir

Willmus de Wikeham

A mon tres cher amy Jehan Seigneur de Cobeham

Wykeham (William of)

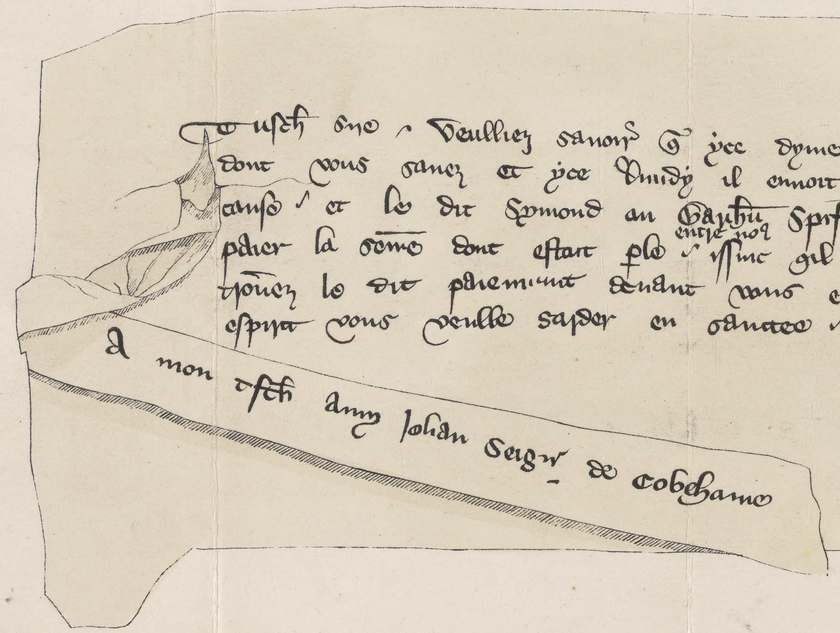
b. 1324

d. 1404

Facsimile of letter

with explanatory letter from Dr.

Sewell, Warden of New College, 1874



A mon tresch amy Johan Seigr de Cobehamo

Tresch ens. Veullez sauoir q̄ ycc dymenge ie emoudy p̄ le vallet Symond Bachel qi dyst a mon a Rhens ou ie luy p̄dy de leschange dont vous sauez et ycc Dimdy il emoit vn vallet dens payis q̄ luy ad chaysi qil p̄ sort one tourne la hastie qil prist p la dite cause et le dit Symond au Bachiu enqueroit Sperfamo son piere emoiesent dens leur compaignons quels p̄ q̄ le. ppo. dyst de vous fame pstenere pdier la some dont estant p̄d et sine qil non busoigne mes q̄ vous diller ne emoier dens Rayis p celle cause et dy seurement vous trouez le dit pchemint deuant vous en les mains de dits compaignons quel lieu q̄ le ppo dyst tpus q̄ resch ens lm sens esprist vous veullie sauer en oūtres et Esters a Rhens en ūne hastie ycc Dimdy et our mon deprīr

Dilhū de Kirkhamo.